

**Introduced by Senators Romero and Perata**

February 17, 2006

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An act relating to emergency medical services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1339, as introduced, Romero. Emergency medical services.

Existing law establishes the Emergency Medical Services Authority that, among other things, is required to adopt regulations governing emergency medical services, including local emergency medical service agencies and trauma care centers. Under existing law, the authority is required, among other things, to assess emergency medical services needs throughout the state and to provide technical assistance for the purpose of developing emergency medical services systems.

Existing law (Chapter 333 of the Statutes of 2002) requires the authority to convene a task force of specified members to study the delivery and provision of emergency medical services in California, and requires the task force to submit a report to the Legislature providing recommendations for improving the delivery of emergency medical services throughout California within 2 years from the date that funding and positions have been provided for the project, to be implemented only to the extent that the authority obtains private funding needed to support and monitor the work of the task force.

This bill would require, on or before March 1, 2008, the authority to conduct an evaluation of existing emergency care and trauma care services to assess the current condition of the state's emergency and trauma care system and provide the findings to the chairs of the appropriate committees of the Legislature.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. (a) The Emergency Medical Services Authority  
2 shall conduct an evaluation of existing emergency care and  
3 trauma care services to assess the current condition of the state's  
4 emergency and trauma care system. The evaluation shall include  
5 a historical perspective of the emergency and trauma care system  
6 and a plan to improve future emergency care and trauma care  
7 services.
- 8     (b) In conducting the evaluation, the authority shall consider  
9 all of the following:
- 10     (1) Access to emergency room care and services.  
11     (2) Average waiting times for emergency services.  
12     (3) Access to oncall physicians.  
13     (4) The frequency with which emergency departments practice  
14 diversion.
- 15     (5) The number of emergency department closures.  
16     (6) Geographic access to emergency services.  
17     (7) The financial stability of emergency medical and trauma  
18 service providers.
- 19     (c) The authority shall, on or before March 1, 2008, report its  
20 findings to the chairs of the appropriate Senate and Assembly  
21 policy, fiscal, and budget committees of the Legislature.